

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 22, 2006 (Paper No. 20060619). Upon entry of this response, claims 46-49 are pending in the application. In this response, claims 46 and 48 have been amended, and claim 50 has been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments being filed herewith be entered and request that there be reconsideration of all pending claims.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 46-49. Applicants have cancelled rejected claim 50. Applicants have also made amendments to independent claims 46 and 48 to correct typographical errors, specifically, to add the word "and" before the last step in these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

2. Rejection of Claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103

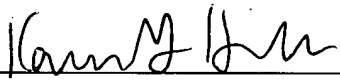
Claim 50 has been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Barron* (U.S.4,067,844) or *Zwiener* (U.S. 5,364,955). Claim 50 is cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of this claim is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claim 50, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and presently pending claims 46-49 be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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